

been disproportionately in low-wage occupations, as some in this House have claimed.

Specifically, according to the statistics from the Bureau of Labor Statistics Household Survey, between June 2003 and June 2004, 71.4 percent of the net increase in employment was in three relatively well-paid occupational categories: Management, professional and related occupations, that category comprised 23.1 percent of the job gains; construction and extraction occupations, that is, mining occupations, accounted for 36.1 percent; and installation, maintenance and repair occupations accounted for 12.2 percent.

The earnings in these occupational categories are higher than the median and much higher than the earnings of the typical low-income worker. Most of the workers in well-paid occupations have earnings in the middle range or higher.

These employment figures indicate that most of the new jobs are not at low wage levels, but at higher levels of earnings. We have been hearing assertions about "hamburger flippers," jobs dominating employment for about 20 years now. Those stories have not come true. It just is not happening. We are not about to become a Nation of hamburger flippers.

The data shows that most of the recent employment gains have been in relatively well paid occupations. This is good news for the American worker and is good news for the American family. It means that the low-paying job problem that accompanied the economic downturn which began in the last half of 2000, during the Clinton administration, has been rectified.

It further means that the economic policies of the current administration are working to bring pocketbook issues into a positive state.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### KNOWLEDGE IS POWER IN AMERICAN POLITICS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, knowledge is power. That is the hope for America right now. That is the hope, that the American people will see what is happening in the people's House at the direction of the White House.

Democracy was subverted in a brazen manner here, and it is because of the administration that has a policy that States' ignorance is a virtue.

The President of the United States proudly says, "I don't read newspapers.

I don't read books, except for children's books when there is a photo-op possibility. I only take information that is pre-chewed by my staff and brought in to me and given to me." We will talk more about that later.

But the fact is the reason they want the PATRIOT Act is because as a part of this "ignorance is a virtue" policy, we have got to keep the American people ignorant. How can you do that? Keep them out of the libraries. We do not want them going into the libraries and reading books and finding out things that the President does not even know. What will happen if the people know more than the President?

So, the PATRIOT Act says, give the CIA and the FBI the ability to come into the library and see what you, the American people, are reading. What is going on here?

Now, this body came out here and took that power away. But it was suppressed. Democracy was suppressed in this body. After we restored the basic freedoms and civil liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, we took away the people's right to read whatever they want without having the government snooping over their shoulder.

Democracy was censored after the American people's representatives had spoken loudly and clearly through their elected representatives, Democrats and Republicans. This was not just Democrats. The people told us to restore some of the basic freedoms and the civil liberties subverted by the PATRIOT Act. We did it out here on this floor.

But King George III did not want that. He wanted a different outcome. Democracy was subverted in a brazen display of raw political arrogance ordered by the administration and executed by the Republicans. America has never been so divided.

The Republican America is a place where the polls stay open until the Republicans win. Now, you have all voted in an election. You go to the polls and they close at 8 o'clock. You cannot come at 8:10 and say, "Hey, I want to vote." They are closed. It is over. You only can vote until then.

The Republican America is a place where the voice of the people is drowned out by the iron will of this administration. They did it right here on the floor. The Republican America is a place where fear is useful and greed is very, very good.

The Republican America is a place where democracy is endangered by an administration unwilling to accept the will of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, knowledge is power. The administration preordained the war in Iraq. They decided they were going to war. They manufactured reasons and they remanufactured responses as knowledge of the President's war choices began to reach the American people and turned out to be false.

The Senate Intelligence Committee has just put out a report which is just

the tip of the iceberg. They say the CIA gave bad information to the President. Remember, the President does not read anything himself. He does not read the newspapers, he does not read books. He lets people he trusts come in and tell him what has happened.

So, the CIA is at fault for why we are in Iraq. There is no other answer. Our President could not be at fault, because he took the word of people he trusted.

Now, the CIA is not without fault, but they are not solely to blame. What about the trips that Vice President CHENEY made out to Langley to the CIA headquarters, and twisted arms and said, "Can't you find some reason here why we can go into Iraq?" He did it five times, so that when the information came from the CIA to the President, who did not know anything else, he took what Mr. CHENEY squeezed out of the CIA. The process behind the intelligence was tainted. What did the administration know? What did they ignore, mischaracterize or discount, because it did not fit their agenda?

The checks and balances of this government were broken down by an administration that had a blank check from the Congress: "Go out and do anything you want on the war on terror." So they had the blank check in their pocket.

Then they had to have a clear intent for why they should invade Iraq, so they had to go to the CIA: "Give us a reason. Come on, give us a reason. There has got to be a reason. Come on."

The CIA is not without fault, but they are far from alone in leading us to war in Iraq. The administration will happily make them a scapegoat. Put it all on them and send them out in the wilderness. Blame George Tenet, blame all the analysts, public servants, all the public officials. Nothing at the White House. "We are blameless," they say.

I ask every American to compare what the administration will do in the next few days. On this weekend they are going to spin that idea all weekend. "We are blameless. We are blameless. The CIA is to blame."

Just compare that with what John Kennedy did after the Bay of Pigs. President Kennedy accepted responsibility. He had the CIA telling him things. He listened to them and he allowed it to happen, and he said "The buck stops at my desk. I made the decision. I was wrong."

Now, does anybody in this country believe that the President will admit that any mistakes have occurred in Iraq because of his decision making? Will this administration tell the American people that they should be held accountable for a needless war in Iraq?

Can you imagine the President coming on television and saying, "Well, we made some mistakes and I shouldn't have taken us into Iraq. The 1,000 people who have died were for naught."

John Kennedy accepted the blame. Will this President do that? The buck